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Patent Amendment

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 5, 2005. Applicant has amended claims 1-3. Reconsideration and favorable action in this case are respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 – 9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,986,640 to Baldwin. Applicants have reviewed this reference in detail and does not believe that it discloses or makes obvious the invention as claimed.

While the Baldwin reference uses similar terminology to the claims of the present application, the terms often have significantly different meanings. In Baldwin, a “sub-frame” is the time allocated to a single bit. Hence, in the five bit pixel word of Baldwin, the most significant bit is the “sixteen unit sub-frame” because the most significant bit of a pixel word controls its respective pixel for sixteen units duration. The successive bits in the pixel word would represent the “eight bit sub-frame”, the “four bit sub-frame”, the “two-bit sub-frame” and the “one-bit sub-frame” (col. 7, lines 25-34).

Baldwin allocates the time units associated with a bit of the pixel word (i.e., the “sub-frame” in Baldwin) over the frame period. Thus, in Figure 6c of Baldwin, for example, the eight-unit sub-frame is allocated into two four-unit values at the start and end of the frame time (8a and 8b), the sixteen-unit sub-frame is allocated into two eight-unit values (16a and 16b), and the four-unit sub-frame is allocated into two two-unit values (4a and 4b).

In Baldwin, the split time units are arranged to be symmetrical about a “center of illumination” or “COI” in the figures. By contrast, in the present invention, as defined by the amended claims, each refresh period within an image frame displays the bits of an image word in a predetermined order (although not all bits are necessary displayed in

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each refresh period). As the refresh rate is increased, the multiple displays of the same image word will reduce the flicker perceived by a viewer. Because not all bits are shown in each refresh period, lower order bits, which have the smallest display time, can be modulated at a rate within a minimum specification, while higher order bits, which have the longest display time, can be modulated at a frequency to minimize flickering.

As discussed above, in the Baldwin reference, the time units associated with a bit in an image word are split as mirror images around the center of illumination. If this split is considered to be two refresh periods, it is clear that the order of displaying the bits of the image word is not the same in each refresh period. Where the solution of Baldwin may improve dynamic contouring, the viewer will still see a pattern repeated at the *frame* rate, not at the *refresh* rate. Therefore, a strong component of flickering will persist at the frame rate, rather than the faster, and less noticeable, refresh rate.

Since Baldwin does not show a system where an image word is shown in multiple refresh periods within a frame period, with the bits of the image word shown in a predetermined order in each refresh period and not all bits of the image word are shown in each refresh period, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of independent claims 1-3. Applicant also requests allowance of dependent claims 4-9.

An extension of one month is requested and a Request for Extension of Time under § 1.136 with the appropriate fee is attached hereto.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment, including extension fees, to Deposit Account No. 20-0668 of Texas Instruments Incorporated.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Alan W. Lintel, Applicants'

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Attorney at (972) 664-9595 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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